

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 have been amended; claims 13-16 have been cancelled; claims 17-22 have been added.

Due to the amendment of claims 8 and 10-12, and the cancellation of claims 13-16, no excess claim fees are required due to the addition of new claims 17-22.

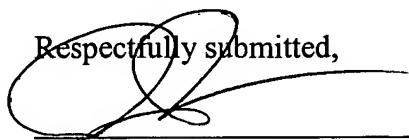
Support for the recitation “wherein said fusion protein forms an oligomeric complex with gp130, and wherein said fusion protein induces gp130 activation” in claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 17-21 may be found at page 1, paragraph 2; Example 5 (pages 35-37); page 6, lines 10-15.

Support for the recitation “comprises any of amino acids 1 to 116 through any of amino acids 323 to 468 of the IL-6 receptor” in claims 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 may be found at pages 9-10, specifically, at page 10, lines 7-8 (“cytokine receptor region”) and lines 14-16 (N-terminus of IL6R from position 1 to position 116), and at page 9, lines 23-24 (cytokine domain ending at position 323).

Support for the recitation “any of amino acids 1 to 38 through amino acid 212 of IL-6” in claims 17-21 may be found at page 11, lines 10-16, and Examiner 16 and 17 (specifically, page 52, lines 10-14, for example).

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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